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Message Text

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45
ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 COME-00 EB-11 TRSE-00 TAR-02 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 USIA-12 PRS-01

L-03 RSR-01 /059 W
---------- 037219
R 260912 Z APR 73
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3429

UNCLAS TOKYO 5171

E. O. 11652: N/ A
TAGS: ETRD, JA
SUBJECT: GOJ REDUCES AUTOMOBILE COMMODITY TAX

REF: TOKYO 2350

1. DIET PASSED BILL APRIL 20 (PARTIAL AMENDMENT TO SPECIAL TAXATION MEASURES LAW) REDUCING COMMODITY TAX ON LARGE AND MEDIUM CARS FROM 40 PERCENT AND 30 PERCENT RESPECTIVELY TO 20 PERCENT. TAX ON SMALL CARS REMAINS 15 PERCENT. BILL CALLED " TEMPORARY", BUT PROVIDES NO TERMINATION DATE; THUS IN FACT INDEFINITE.

2. BILL ALSO PROVIDES FURTHER COMMODITY TAX REDUCTION (TEMPORARY) FOR PASSENGER CARS THAT COMPLY WITH 1975 JAPANESE EXHAUST GAS STANDARDS. CARS MEETING 1975 STANDARDS BETWEEN APRIL 1, 1973 AND MARCH 31, 1974 RECEIVE 25 PERCENT COMMODITY TAX REDUCTION (TO 15 PERCENT ON MEDIUM AND LARGE CARS, AND 11.25 PERCENT ON SMALL CARS). CARS MEETING 1975 STANDARDS BETWEEN APRIL 1 AND SEPTEMBER 30, 1974 SUBJECT TO 12.5 PER-CENT TAX REDUCTION (TO 17.5 PERCENT ON MEDIUM AND LARGE CARS, AND 13.125 PERCENT ON SMALL CARS).

3. DIET ALSO PASSED PARTIAL AMENDMENT TO THE COMMODITY TAX LAW, PROVIDING FOR INCREASES, DECREASES, ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS TO CURRENT COMMODITY TAX SYSTEM EFFECTIVE APRIL 27. (DETAILS UNCLASSIFIED

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TO BE REPORTED SEPARATELY.) THIS AMENDMENT INCLUDES REVISION OF AUTOMOBILE COMMODITY TAX WHICH DIFFERS FROMREVISION CON-TAINED IN AMENDMENT DESCRIBED PAR.1 ABOVE. COMMODITY TAX LAW AMENDMENT ABOLISHES 40 PERCENT RATE ON LARGE CARS, RESULTING

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IN TWO- TIER SYSTEM OF 30 PERCENT FOR MEDIUM AND LARGE CARS AND 15 PERCENT FOR SMALL CARDS.

4. PARTIAL AMEFGMENT TO SPECIAL TAXATION MEASURES LAW TAKES PRECEDENCE OVER PASSENGER CAR PROVISION OF PARTIAL AMENDMENT TO COMMODITY TAX LAW. THUS, RATES MENTIONED PAR. 1 ABOVE WILL BE APPLICABLE.

5. FYI. DEFINITIONOF NEW COMMODITY TAX CATEGORIES IN EFFECT PER PAR. 1 ABOVE IS AS FOLLOWS:

15 PERCENT: CARS WITH WHEELBASE NOT OVER 270 CM, WIDTH NOT OVER 170 CM, AND CYLINDER CAPACITY NOT OVER 2000 CC.
20 PERCENT: CARS OTHER THAN ABOVE.
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